CLAIMS

1) A media provider system, comprising:

a user interface, the user interface being a web site that allows the user to preview, select and purchase media files;

a customer database capable of holding data or information about a plurality of customers, such information including name, shipping address, billing address, media preferences, past purchases, and payment information;

a media database containing information about a plurality of media files available for purchase, such information including cost, length, available formats, ratings, credits, ownership, royalty requirements, and representative samples of each media file to be used for customer previews and selection of customization options;

a recording database containing information about a plurality of recordings made by the system, such information including recording number, media serial number, time and date of the recording, and a reference key to the customer record in the customer database for the purchaser of the recording;

at least one database server containing the customer, media and recording databases;

at least one media file customization server for computing customizations on media file samples for the web site;

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a digital ID generation software application referencing the customer database, the digital ID generation software application generating unique digital identification numbers that reference purchases in the recording database;

a job-control master computer system, the job-control master computer system managing the duplication jobs, the job control master directing each duplication job to a processing job queue of a particular recording cluster based on efficiency principles;

a media file archival server storing less popular media files and allowing for backup of the media files;

a plurality of media file clusters each containing a media file master server, a processing job queue, at least one media generation client, a generation queue, at least one package printing client, a package printing queue, at least one media-recording client, a recording queue and a media network; the media file master server obtaining a job from the processing job queue, acquiring files for the job in at least one area consisting of a media master file server local storage and the media file archival server, the media master file server sending the jobs requiring customization work to the generation queue and sending jobs not requiring customization work to the recording queue, the media generation client retrieving the job from the generation queue, performing customization work and returning the job to the master media file server, the media

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recording client retrieving the job from the recording queue and

duplicating the files together with the unique digital identification number

on a recording medium;

a web site network allowing for communications between the web site server,

database server(s) and job control master computer system; and

a job control and archival network allowing for communications between the

database server(s), the job control master computer system, the media

file archival server and a plurality of media file clusters.

2)   A media provider system, comprising:

a plurality of media file clusters each containing a media file master server and

at least one media-recording client; the media file master server acquiring

customized files for a particular duplication job and sending the files for a

job to a recording queue, the media recording client retrieving a job from

the recording queue and duplicating the files;

a job-control master computer system, the job-control master computer system

sending a duplication job to one of the media file clusters; and

a media network used for communications between the media file master server.

and a plurality of client systems within the media file cluster.

3) The media provider system of claim 2 further comprising:

at least one media generation client and a generation queue, the generation

queue receiving jobs from the media file master server that require

customization, the media generation client retrieving a job from the

generation queue, customizing the files and sending customized jobs to

the recording queue.

4) The media provider system of claim 2 further comprising:

at least one packaging printer client and a packaging printer queue, the

packaging printer queue receiving jobs from the media file master server

that allow for printing of labels and inserts to be used in the product

packaging for the completed recording.

5) The media provider system of claim 3 wherein the customized job is

communicated to the recording queue via the media file master server.

6) The media provider system of claim 2 further comprising:

a user interface, the user interface being a web site and communicating jobs to

the job control master;

a customer database capable of holding data or information about a plurality of

customers, such information including name, shipping address, billing

address, media preferences: past purchases, and payment information;

at least one database server containing the customer database; and

a web site network allowing for communications between the web site server,

and the database server(s).

7)   The media provider system of claim 6 further comprising a media database

containing information about a plurality of media files available for purchase, such

information including cost, length, available formats, ratings, credits, ownership, royalty

requirements, and representative samples of each media file to be used for customer

previews and selection of customization options.

8)   The media provider system of claim 6 further comprising a recording database

containing information about a plurality of recordings made by the system, such

information including recording number, media serial number, time and date of the

recording, and a reference key to the customer record in the customer database for the

purchaser of the recording.

9)   The media provider system of claim 7 further comprising at least one media file

customization server for computing customizations on media file samples for the web

site.

10) The media provider system of claim 2 further comprising:

a job control master computer system that directs each recording job to a

particular recording cluster based on efficiency principles; and

a job control network allowing for communications between the job control

master computer system and a plurality of media file clusters.

11) The media provider system of claim 2 further comprising:

a media file archival server that obtains files in at least one area from the group

consisting of local storage and the media file archival servers.; and

an archival network allowing for communications between the media file archival

server and a plurality of media file clusters.

12) The media provider system of claim 8 wherein the media recording client places

a customer specific digital identifier on recorded copies.

13) The media provider system of claim 2 wherein the files include at least one

member selected from the group consisting of videos, games, electronic pictures and

sound recordings.

14) The media provider system of claim 2 wherein at least one recording cluster is

strictly for recording popular media choices.

15) The media provider system of claim 2 wherein the media files are encrypted.

16) The media provider system of claim 2 further comprising a recorder, the media recording client controlling the recorder with respect to insertion of, recording to and removal of a recording medium.

17) The media provider system of claim 2 wherein the files are recorded on a recording medium selected from the group consisting of cassette tapes, DVDs, CDROMs, floppy discs, and video tapes.

18) The media provider system of claim 2 wherein multiple types of media files are recorded on one specimen of a recording medium.

19) The media provider system of claim 2 wherein each media file master server maintains several media files that are the more popular customer selections.

20) The media provider system of claim 2 further comprising a media generation client, the media file master server sending a job requiring a computation to the media generation client.

21) The media provider system of claim 3 wherein the media generation client performs computations on media files, modifies media files and generates media files.

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22) The media provider system of claim 22 wherein the media generation client sends the files for a job to the recording queue.

23) The media provider system of claim 6 further comprising:

a downloadable applet for a web browser allowing media file customization options to be interactively computed, previewed and selected; and

transmission of customization option selections from the applet to the web site.

24) A method of recording, comprising:

selecting one or more media content files for recording from a plurality of available media content files;

imputing a job including media content selections and customization requirements;

transmitting the job to a processing job queue of a selected media cluster;

acquiring the files for the job;

customizing the files;

recording the files onto recordable media; and

printing packaging inserts and labels for the recording.

25) The method of claim 24 wherein the step of customizing further comprises:

sending the job to a generation queue;

updating the job entry status on the generation queue to indicate the job is being

worked on;

performing customizations on the files of the job;

updating the job entry status on the generation queue to indicate the job is

completed; and

returning the job to the processing job queue.

26) The method of claim 24 wherein the step of recording further comprises:

sending the job to a recording queue;

updating the job entry status on the recording queue to indicate the job is being

worked on;

recording the files onto recordable media;

updating the job entry status on the recording queue to indicate the job is

completed; and

updating the job entry status on the processing queue to indicate the job is

completed.

27) The method of claim 24 wherein the step of selecting one or more media

content files further comprises:

putting information about available media content files on a web site;

sending code and data to a web browser for the purposes of displaying

information about available media content files; and

sending code and data to a web browser for the purposes of allowing a customer

to specify one or more media file selections for purchase.

28) The method of claim 27 wherein the data sent to a web browser includes media

file samples.

29) The method of claim 27 wherein the code sent to a web browser includes

applets for computing and presenting examples of media file customizations.

30) The method of claim 27 further comprising the step of a media file customization

server providing computational services for the web site.

31) The method of claim 24 wherein the step of transmitting the job to a processing

job queue of a selected media cluster further comprises:

  determining which media files are required for the job;

  estimating the computational time for the customizations required for the job;

  determining the jobs currently running on a plurality of media clusters;

  determining the jobs that have run recently on a plurality of media clusters;

  determining which media files are present in the local storage areas for a

      plurality of media clusters; and

  selecting a media cluster that is likeliest to complete the recording job in the

      shortest amount of time.

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32)   The method of claim 31 further comprising the step of determining whether the media files are a popular choice.

33)   The method of claim 32 wherein the step of selecting a media cluster further comprises the criteria of selecting a media cluster designated for recording popular titles.

34)   The method of claim 24 wherein the step of acquiring the files further comprises retrieving the files from a media file archival server if the files are not present in the local storage of the selected media file cluster.